

128 Make some goo

1. Pour two cups of cornflour into a big bowl. Add four drops of food dye to a cup of water and pour it into the bowl.



2. Mix the ingredients together with your hands until they are well blended.



3. How does the mixture you have made feel in your hands?



4. Scoop up a handful of mixture. Does it stay in your hand or dribble through your fingers?



5. See if you can make a ball by rolling the mixture between your hands. Try rolling it quickly, then slowly.



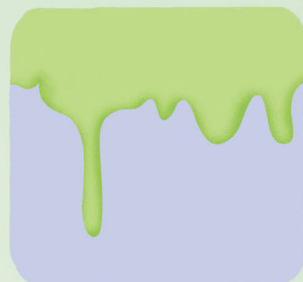
6. Try punching the mixture with your hand. Does it feel hard or soft?

7. Try to stir the mixture quickly with a wooden spoon. What happens?

Goo can act like both a solid *and* a liquid. Cornflour is made of lots of long, stringy particles. When the goo is rolled quickly or punched, the particles push back so the goo feels solid. If the goo is dribbled, the particles slide over each other so it feels like a liquid.

129 Make slime

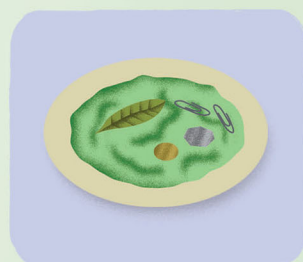
Take the goo from activity 128 (or make some more) and add another cup of water to make slime. Try stirring and rolling it. What happens?



When more water is added, goo turns into a slimy liquid and loses its special nature. You can stir it, but you can't roll it into a ball.

130 Dry slime

1. Pour a thin layer of slime onto a plate. Gently press some objects into it, such as a coin, a paperclip and a leaf.



2. Leave the slime to dry overnight. Then, lift out the objects. What is left behind?



The water in the slime slowly evaporates – it turns into a gas and floats away in the air. Only the dry cornflour and food dye are left behind. If you leave objects in slime while it dries, you will get imprints of their shapes.